**Directions: Closely read and annotate the following paragraph and then answer the questions that follow. (There are questions on the back of the page!)**

Tell Dally. It was too late to tell Dally. Would he have listened? I doubted it. Suddenly it wasn’t only a personal thing to me. I could picture hundreds and hundreds of boys living on the wrong sides of cities, boys with black eyes who jumped at their own shadows. Hundreds of boys who maybe watched sunsets and looked at stars and ached for something better. I could see boys going down under street lights because they were mean and tough and hated the world, and it was too late to tell then that there was still good in it, and they wouldn’t believe you if they did. It was too vast a problem to be just a personal thing. There should be some help, someone should tell them before it was too late. Someone should tell their side of the story, and maybe some people would understand then and wouldn’t be so quick to judge a boy by the amount of hair oil he wore. It was important to me. I picked up the phone book and called my English teacher.

~ Page 179

1. This passage shows that Ponyboy has changed his way of thinking about the world. How has his thinking changed?

2. How does this passage support the theme of the novel?

3. Go back to the passage and draw a star at the beginning and end of the sentence (or series of sentences) that best supports the theme of the novel. Explain your choice below.

4. Earlier in the novel, Ponyboy wondered, “Dally is tougher than I am. Why can I take it when Dally can’t?” (page 152). After reading Johnny’s letter and this passage, why is Ponyboy able to make it?